

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for selectively monitoring load
2 instructions to support transactional execution of a process, comprising:
3 starting a transactional execution of a block of instructions in a program,
4 wherein starting the transactional execution involves performing an instruction
5 implemented in hardware to start the transactional execution;
6 encountering a load instruction during the transactional execution of a
7 block of instructions in a program, wherein changes made during the transactional
8 execution are not committed to the architectural state of a processor until the
9 transactional execution successfully completes;
10 determining whether the load instruction is a monitored load instruction or
11 an unmonitored load instruction;
12 if the load instruction is a monitored load instruction,
13 performing a corresponding load operation, and
14 load-marking a cache line associated with the load
15 instruction to facilitate subsequent detection of an interfering data
16 access to the cache line from another process; and
17 if the load instruction is an unmonitored load instruction, performing the
18 corresponding load operation without load-marking the cache line.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to executing the
2 program, the method further comprises generating the instructions for the
3 program, wherein generating the instructions involves:

4 determining whether load operations that take place during transactional
5 execution need to be monitored;

6 generating monitored load instructions for load operations that need to be
7 monitored; and

8 generating unmonitored load instructions for load operations that do not
9 need to be monitored.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining whether a load
2 operation needs to be monitored can involve examining a data structure associated
3 with the load operation to determine whether the data structure is a “protected”
4 data structure for which loads need to be monitored, or an “unprotected” data
5 structure for which loads do not need to be monitored.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining whether a load
2 operation needs to be monitored can involve determining whether the load
3 operation is directed to a heap, wherein loads from the heap need to be monitored
4 and loads from outside the heap do not need to be monitored.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining whether a load
2 operation needs to be monitored can involve allowing a programmer to determine
3 if the load operation needs to be monitored.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, determining whether the load
2 instruction is a monitored load instruction involves examining an op code of the
3 load instruction.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, determining whether the load
2 instruction is a monitored load instruction involves examining an address
3 associated with the load instruction to determine whether the address falls within
4 a range of addresses for which loads are monitored.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein examining the address
2 involves comparing the address with one or more boundary registers.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein examining the address
2 involves examining a Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB) entry associated with
3 the address.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if an interfering data access
2 from another process is encountered during transactional execution of the block of
3 instructions, the method further comprises:
4 discarding changes made during the transactional execution; and
5 attempting to re-execute the block of instructions.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein if transactional execution of
2 the block of instructions completes without encountering an interfering data
3 access from another process, the method further comprises:
4 committing changes made during the transactional execution to the
5 architectural state of the processor; and
6 resuming normal non-transactional execution of the program past the
7 block of instructions.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein an interfering data access
2 can include:

3 a store by another process to a cache line that has been load-marked by the
4 process; and

5 a load or a store by another process to a cache line that has been store-
6 marked by the process.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cache line is load-
2 marked in level 1 (L1) cache.

1 14. (Currently amended) An apparatus that selectively monitors load
2 instructions to support transactional execution of a process, comprising:
3 a start transactional execution mechanism configured to start a
4 transactional execution of a block of instructions in a program, wherein starting
5 the transactional execution involves performing an instruction implemented in
6 hardware to start the transactional execution;

7 an execution mechanism within a processor;
8 wherein the execution mechanism is configured to support the
9 transactional execution of a block of instructions in a program, and wherein
10 changes made during the transactional execution are not committed to the
11 architectural state of a processor until the transactional execution successfully
12 completes;

13 wherein upon encountering a load instruction during transactional
14 execution, the execution mechanism is configured to,

15 determine whether the load instruction is a monitored load
16 instruction or an unmonitored load instruction,

17 if the load instruction is a monitored load instruction, to
18 perform a corresponding load operation, and to load-mark a cache
19 line associated with the load instruction to facilitate subsequent

20 detection of an interfering data access to the cache line from
21 another process; and
22 if the load instruction is an unmonitored load instruction, to
23 perform the corresponding load operation without load-marking
24 the cache line.

1 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising an instruction
2 generation mechanism configured to:

3 determine whether load operations that take place during transactional
4 execution need to be monitored;

5 generate monitored load instructions for load operations that need to be
6 monitored; and to

7 generate unmonitored load instructions for load operations that do not
8 need to be monitored.

1 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the instruction
2 generation mechanism is configured to determine whether a load operation needs
3 to be monitored by examining a data structure associated with the load operation
4 to determine whether the data structure is a “protected” data structure for which
5 loads need to be monitored, or an “unprotected” data structure for which loads do
6 not need to be monitored.

1 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the instruction
2 generation mechanism is configured to determine whether a load operation needs
3 to be monitored by determining whether the load operation is directed to a heap,
4 wherein loads from the heap need to be monitored and loads from outside the
5 heap do not need to be monitored.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the instruction
2 generation mechanism is configured to determine whether a load operation needs
3 to be monitored by allowing a programmer to determine if the load operation
4 needs to be monitored.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the execution
2 mechanism is configured to determine whether the load instruction is a monitored
3 load instruction by examining an op code of the load instruction.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the execution
2 mechanism is configured to determine whether the load instruction is a monitored
3 load instruction by examining an address associated with the load instruction to
4 determine whether the address falls within a range of addresses for which loads
5 are monitored.

1 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the execution
2 mechanism is configured to examine the address by comparing the address with
3 one or more boundary registers.

1 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the execution
2 mechanism is configured to examine the address by examining a Translation
3 Lookaside Buffer (TLB) entry associated with the address.

1 23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein if an interfering data
2 access from another process is encountered during transactional execution of the
3 block of instructions, the execution mechanism is configured to:
4 discard changes made during the transactional execution; and to
5 attempt to re-execute the block of instructions.

1 24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein if transactional
2 execution of the block of instructions completes without encountering an
3 interfering data access from another process, the execution mechanism is
4 configured to:

5 commit changes made during the transactional execution to the
6 architectural state of the processor; and to

7 resume normal non-transactional execution of the program past the block
8 of instructions.

1 25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein an interfering data
2 access can include:

3 a store by another process to a cache line that has been load-marked by the
4 process; and

5 a load or a store by another process to a cache line that has been store-
6 marked by the process.

1 26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the cache line is load-
2 marked in level 1 (L1) cache.

1 27. (Currently amended) An computer system that selectively monitors
2 load instructions to support transactional execution of a process, comprising:
3 a processor;
4 a memory;
5 a start transactional execution mechanism within the processor configured
6 to start a transactional execution of a block of instructions in a program, wherein
7 starting the transactional execution involves performing an instruction
8 implemented in hardware to start the transactional execution;
9 an execution mechanism within the processor;

10 wherein the execution mechanism is configured to support the
11 transactional execution ~~of a block of instructions in a program, and wherein~~
12 changes made during the transactional execution are not committed to the
13 architectural state of a processor until the transactional execution successfully
14 completes;

15 wherein upon encountering a load instruction during transactional
16 execution, the execution mechanism is configured to,

17 determine whether the load instruction is a monitored load
18 instruction or an unmonitored load instruction,

19 if the load instruction is a monitored load instruction, to
20 perform a corresponding load operation, and to load-mark a cache
21 line associated with the load instruction to facilitate subsequent
22 detection of an interfering data access to the cache line from
23 another process; and

24 if the load instruction is an unmonitored load instruction, to perform the
25 corresponding load operation without load-marking the cache line.